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Thursday-Friday, October 2-3, 2025

Charlton sisters raise money for local food pantry



BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

CHARLTON — Two young Charlton residents have embraced their talents and the spirit of sisterhood to help raise money to provide fresh produce to a local food pantry for those in need.

Scarlett Webb and older sister, Stella Webb, teamed together to collect funds through the sale of Scarlett's new book

and Stella's handmade jewelry to pay for 700 of produce to support Charlton's CHIP-IN Food Pantry. The girls were inspired to help those in need after Scarlett experienced significant support for her book and the pair wanted to pay it forward.

The girls' mother, Sabrina Webb, said it all started when eight-year-old Scarlett pursued her dream of becoming a pub-



ABOVE: Scarlett Webb appears on WINY Radio in Putnam to promote her book "Farmer Todd Lost His Way Home."

AT LEFT: Sisters Scarlett and Stella Webb helped donate hundreds of pounds of food to CHIP-IN Food Pantry in Charlton.

lished author. The family worked through Amazon to publish her book "Farmer Todd Lost His Way Home" which challenges readers to help the titular Farmer Todd find his way back to the farm by solving math problems. The book took off as family members and local residents turned out to support Scarlett's work. That's when the Webb family realized they had an important opportunity presented to them.

Turn To **SISTERS** page **A13**

Webster man indicted for arson in Southbridge fire that displaced 12 families

SOUTHBRIDGE—Southbridge Police arrested a Webster man last Thursday following his indictment by a Worcester County grand jury for allegedly setting a fire that ripped through two multi-family homes, said Southbridge Police Chief Shane Woodson, Worcester County District Attorney Joseph D. Early, Jr., Southbridge Fire Chief Paul Normandin, and State Fire Marshal Jon M. Davine.

Gerardo Cruz-Rivera, 34, is charged with two counts each of arson of a dwelling and malicious damage to a motor vehicle for the Nov. 13, 2024 fire that started at 7-9 Union St. in Southbridge and quickly spread to the neighboring building at 11-13 Union St. He was arraigned yesterday in Worcester Superior Court. At the request of District Attorney Early's office, Cruz-Rivera was held

Turn To **ARSON** page **A13**

School Committee finalizing CTE policy

BY JASON BLEAU
CORRESPONDENT

DUDLEY/CHARLTON — The Dudley Charlton Regional School District is seeking to implement a new policy to solidify its transparency with middle school students regarding Career Technical Education (CTE) programs as they approach their high school years.

The policy is designed to meet requirements set by the state which the district must implement before the start of November, although Superintendent Steven Lamarche has confirmed he sought an extension in case the district doesn't meet that deadline. The policy was introduced for public feedback during a School Committee meeting on Sept. 24 where the Superintendent assured the committee that the district already employs these practices, but the policy codifies it in accordance with requirements by the state.

"This is to ensure that we provide opportunities for our students to attend a continuing technical education program. We already do these things, but this is still a requirement for us to put in place," Lamarche said.

The policy meets guidance put forth by state agencies, although Lamarche said he did his added due diligence of communicating their policy with the Massachusetts Association of School Committee (MASC), an organization that provides models for districts to follow. The Superintendent implied that the district's policy is in line with expectations. Lamarche also noted that the policy includes local agricultural schools and the Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational Technical High School district which oversees Bay Path.

Turn To **POLICY** page **A13**

Hitchcock hits the road with local firefighters for 17th annual Brimfield Auto Show



BRIMFIELD — Now in its 17th year, the annual Brimfield Auto Show is a benefit for Hitchcock Academy and the Brimfield Firefighters Association. The 2025 show will take place at the Brimfield Winery on Saturday, Oct. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The rain date for the event is Oct. 12.

Car registration opens at 8 a.m., and is just \$15 per vehicle. Public admission is \$5, waived for seniors, military, veterans, and children 13 & under.

Fueled by spectator feedback, show improvements will feature dust mitigation by Precise Pav-

ing, who laid millings throughout many of the roadways in the field. A second entrance gate from the east with access through a neighboring property was installed by Charlton Fence - this will help to move traffic and registrants onto the field more efficiently. Spector parking in the morning will be situated across the street thanks to the owners of the Shelton Antique Shows field. Along with beverages offered by the Winery, four food trucks will be on site to feed the crowds: Flavor Box, Flippin' the Bird BBQ, Main Street Café, and Off The Hook.

The day will also feature raffles, merchandise, and music with Bruce Marshall of The Valley's Classic Hits 97.7 FM and 1250 AM, who is well-known by car show enthusiasts everywhere.

As always, Brimfield Winery and Auction Acres owners Rusty and Kate Corriveau have generously offered their property for this important fundraiser that benefits two local organizations: the Brimfield Firefighters Association, who supports ongoing training and social, recreational

Turn To **AUTO SHOW** page **A11**

Arthritis Foundation’s Jingle Bell Run® brings Worcester together to raise funds and awareness for research

WORCESTER — Jingle Bell Run returns to bring holiday cheer to Worcester on Dec. 7, with the goal of raising \$95,000 this year. This family-friendly, holiday-themed 5K run at Bay State Brewing Company encourages participants to dress in festive costumes and get moving to raise awareness and funds to conquer America’s #1 cause of disability.

Taking place in more than 60 cities nationwide, the Arthritis Foundation’s Jingle Bell Run benefits the nearly 60 million adults and hundreds of thousands of children in the U.S. who are living with arthritis every day. From funding cutting-edge research for new

treatments, and ultimately a cure, to advocating for health care access, the Arthritis Foundation helps people with arthritis score everyday victories, one step at a time.

“Jingle Bell Run has found it home in Worcester over the last five years and we’re looking forward to bringing extra holiday cheer to town this year,” said Erica D’Agostino, Senior Executive Director. “Our honorees and volunteers are the ones who make Jingle Bell Run successful and memorable every year, and this year we’re humbled to honor Dr. Minjin Fromm who is a true arthritis champion and her commitment to her patients.”

Dr. Fromm has a passion for improving the quality of life of patients who suffer from painful arthritic conditions in the spine and joints through injection-based treatment. She finds joy in connecting with patients to help understand their problems and offers the best treatment options to reduce their pain and return to an active lifestyle.

In addition to Dr. Fromm, the following people and partners will be honored. Dr. Esra Meidan, Jingle Bell Run Medical Honoree, Boston Children’s Hospital

Sarine, Jingle Bell Run Teen Honoree Charlotte, Jingle Bell Run Youth Honoree

Jingle Bell Run is nationally sponsored by Novartis and Zoetis. Local sponsors include Intex Solutions and Country Bank. To learn more and register for Jingle Bell Run in Worcester, visit www.jbr.org/centralma.

About the Arthritis Foundation

The Arthritis Foundation is fighting for all people who live with arthritis. The Foundation’s mission is to turn the obstacles arthritis causes into opportunities. The Arthritis Foundation champions life-changing solutions and medical advancements, and it also provides ways for people to connect, break down barriers in health care and join the fight

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CHURCH LISTINGS

• **Central Baptist Church**
256 Main St., Southbridge, MA 01550
Tel 508/764-6365; Worship 10:00 A.M.

• **Charlton Federated Church**, 64 Main St., 508- 248-5550, Sunday worship 10:30 a.m. Summer worship is 9:30 a.m. www.fed-church.org

• **Charlton Baptist Church**, 50 Hammond Hill Road, 248-4488, www.charltonbaptist.org, Sunday worship 10 a.m.

• **Charlton City United Methodist**, 74 Stafford St. 248-7379, web site: CharltonCityUMC.org

Sunday worship and Children’s church 10am

• **St. Anne St. Patrick Church**, 16 Church St., Fiskdale (508) 347-7338
www.stannestpatparish.com

Saturday Vigil Mass at 4 pm, Sunday 8 am, 10 am, 12 noon, Youth Mass (September to May) 5 pm. Daily Mass Mon - Thurs 7:30 and 10 am, Fri and Sat 7:30 am

• **St. Joseph’s Church**, 10 H. Putnam Ext, 248-7862, www.stjosephscharlton.com, Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m., Sunday Mass 8 a.m., Sunday Family Mass 10 a.m., Sunday LifeTEEN Mass 5 p.m., Weekday Mass Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 8:30 a.m.

• **Wayside Church**, 6 Haggerty Road, 248-5144

• **Assemblies of God Southern New England District Headquarters**, Route 20, 248-3771, snedag.org, Office hours Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

• **Living Word Church of Charlton**, 10 Main Street - Grange building 1st Floor; Charlton, MA 01507, Pastor Craig Bellisario, (508) 233-8349 Sunday Service 10:00am.
www.livingwordcharlton.com
info@livingwordcharlton.com

• **New Life Fellowship A/G, SNED Chapel**, 307 Sturbridge Road, Rt. 20, Charlton, MA, Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

• **Federated Church of Sturbridge and Fiskdale-** 8 Maple St. Sturbridge, 774-304-1021 www.sturfed.org
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

• **Bethlehem Lutheran Church-** 345 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566
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• **Holland Congregation Church**
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Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
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Web: www.holytrinitysouthbridge.org
Sunday Service 11:00 am
Pastor Dan Purtell

REAL ESTATE

Charlton

\$51,228,000, 124 Osgood Rd, Ellis, Kim M, to Camara, Amy M, and Camara, Paul M.

\$925,000, 40 Blood Rd, Corio, Scott C, and Corio, Christine E, to Gupta, Ankush, and Thakur, Priya.

\$693,000, 184 Burlingame Rd, Burlingame, Nelson B, to Marrero, Luis, and Marrero, Brenda.

\$410,000, 26 Bay Path Rd, Boelke, Christopher R, and Boelke, Devon R, to Mercier, Joseph T, and Berthiaume, Madison A.

Holland

\$70,000, Vinton Rd, Boudreau, Beau X, and Boudreau, Courtney A, to Zielinski, Jacek, and Zielinski, Anna.

Southbridge

\$380,000, 19 Locust Ave, Cournoyer, Janet M, to Dorval, Jeannette R.

\$335,000, 329 Worcester St, Peters Kathryn N Est, and Peters, Eliot M, to Cheruka 3rd, Michael, and Degutis, Carrie N.

\$150,000, 82 Hartwell St, Melendez-Lara, Dorias S, and Lakeview Loan Svcr LLC, to 82 Hartwell LLC.

Sturbridge


\$590,000, 128 Podunk Rd, Colon, Thuy, and Colon, Eric, to Murphy, Lee, and Murphy, Aubrie.

\$572,000, 42 Mcgregory Rd, Tenerowicz, Marek, and Tenerowicz, Nicole C, to Dorman, Shaylah, and Lamountain, David.

\$475,000, 65 Breakneck Rd, Clark Jr, Jeffrey A, and Clark, Carolyn A, to Gillespie, Ralph F, and Gillespie, Rebecca.

\$399,900, 44 Bentwood Dr #44, Desrosier, Irene M, to Burrage, Donald F, and Burrage, Laurie M.

\$378,000, 57 Westwood Dr, Zenaro Paul R Est, and Zenaro, Michael, to Devin Jr, John F.



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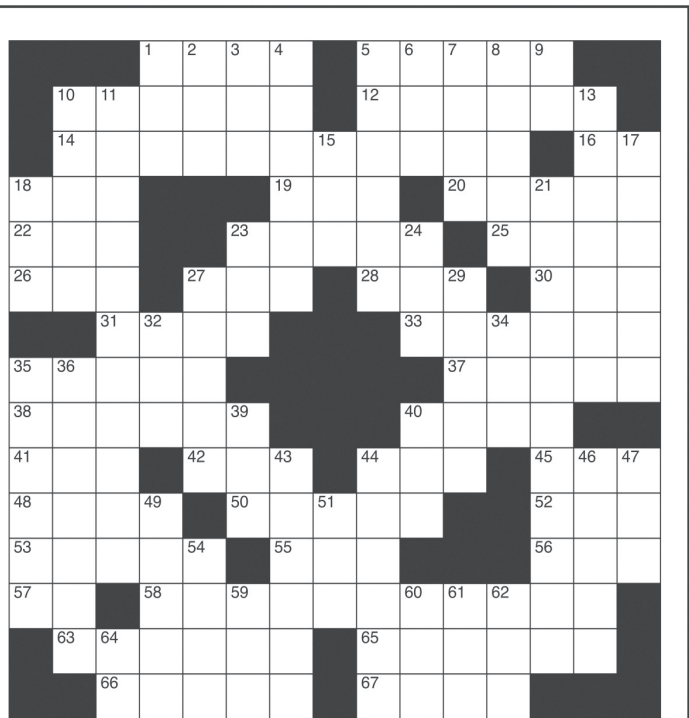
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CLUES ACROSS

1. Native American people of CA

5. Long periods of time (Brit.)

10. Classroom tool

12. Rods

14. One who renews

16. They start the alphabet

18. Periodical (slang)

19. Smooth singer Cole

20. Dorsal sclerites in insects

22. One from Utah

23. The world of the dead

25. Singer Redding

26. Mafia head

27. Wrongly

28. Unhappy

30. Anger

31. Dark olive black

33. Places to sit and eat

35. Made a mistake

37. Damp
38. Banned fuel type

40. Actor Damon

41. What thespians do

42. A polite address for a woman

44. Disallow

45. Swiss river

48. A banana has one

50. Afrikaans

52. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)

53. Agave

55. Journalist Tarbell

56. One-time tech leader

57. Incidentally (abbr.)

58. Intestinal bacterium

63. Loose sheats around the spinal cord

65. Accompanies nook

66. Vogue

67. Highly excited

CLUES DOWN

1. Witch

2. Utilize

3. Writing utensil

4. Where rockers work

5. Becomes less intense

6. Consume

7. Type of catfish

8. “Horsetown, U.S.A.”

9. Atomic #50

10. The Muse of lyric poetry

11. Brings back to life

13. Humorous critiques

15. Cool!

17. Worst

18. Wet dirt

21. Useful

23. Hebrew unit of liquid capacity

24. High schoolers’ test

27. Internet device
29. City in India

32. A place to rest

34. Chat responder

35. A way to move on

36. What consumers are given

39. Digital audiotape

40. More (Spanish)

43. Disfigured

44. White (Spanish)

46. Church building

47. Georgia rockers

49. Surgeon’s tool

51. “Much ___ about nothing”

54. Make by braiding

59. Local area network

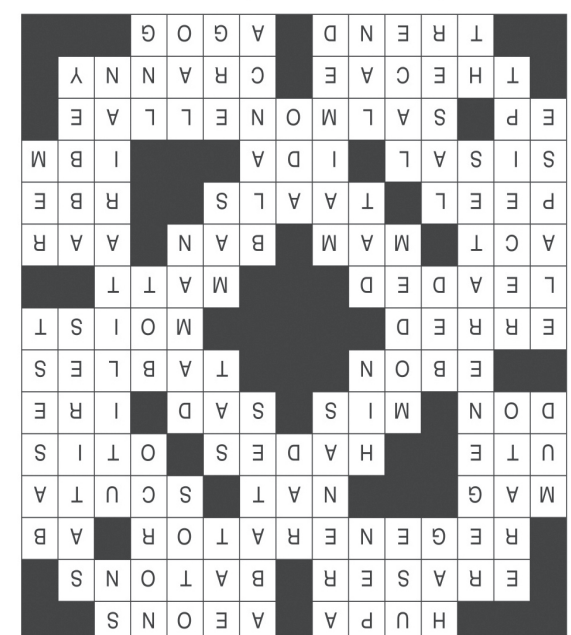
60. Unit of work

61. Indigenous person of Thailand

62. Liquefied natural gas

64. Distance to top

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37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507
Distribution: 3rd Saturday 9 AM-12 Noon

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Wednesday 9-11 a.m.
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Main St. North Brookfield
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the 3rd Thursday of the month from 12
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tory office 508 867-6469.
St. Joseph’s Food Pantry is a community
partner affiliated with the Worcester County
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OXFORD

Oxford Ecumenical Food Shelf
Oxford Community Center
4 Maple Road
Oxford, MA 01540
Distribution: Thursday 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

ROCHDALE

The Lord’s Cupboard Food Pantry
Greenville Baptist Church
674 Pleasant St.
Rochdale, MA
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2:00 p.m. Open to everyone.

SOUTHBRIDGE

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36 North Main Street,
W.Bookfield, MA 01585
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Overlook Health & Rehabilitation Center celebrates ribbon cutting for newly renovated short-term rehab unit



Courtesy

Front Row, left to right: Danyel Darger, Executive Director Overlook Communities, Dr. Allison Hargreaves MD, Overlook Medical Director Integral Health Partners, Kenneth Blake Board Chairman, Tameryn Campbell, President and CEO, Tonya Landry, Administrator, Overlook Health & Rehab Center, Christopher Fiske, Overlook Maintenance Lead, Senator Ryan Fattman, Representative John Marsi, Representative Paul Frost. Second row, left to right: Ted Wilbur, Overlook Chief Information & Security Officer, Shawn Gallant, Superintendent South Coast Improvement Company, Kristine Binette, Overlook Executive Director Home Health & Hospice, Allen Higens, Senior Project Manager South Coast Improvement Company.

CHARLTON — Overlook Health & Rehabilitation Center proudly hosted a private Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Friday, September 12, 2025, to celebrate the grand re-opening of its Short-Term Rehabilitation Unit – now featuring 40 private suites, located on The Overlook Cam-

pus at 88 Masonic Home
Rd., Charlton.

The Ribbon Cutting marks the culmination of nearly three years of development, dedication, and collaboration. The Overlook partnered with RLPS Architects, South Coast Improvement Company, Overlook Leadership and

subject matter experts to bring this vision to life.

The project, the first phase of a comprehensive Campus modernization plan, reimagines healthcare spaces to reflect a warm, home-like environment, and highlights the compassion and service excellence of our dedicated Overlook

Team. The expansion enhances The Overlook's ability to reach not only its Residents, but also the greater surrounding community.

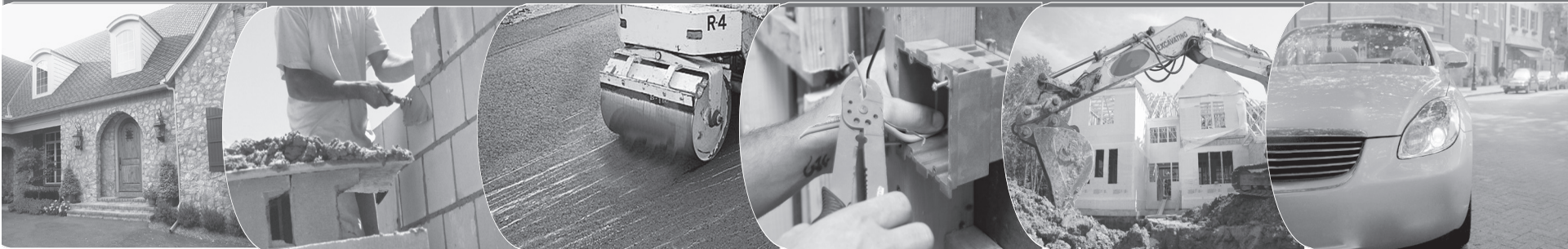
"Today isn't just about a grand re-opening of our doors to a newly renovated and expanded Short-Term Rehabilitation Unit,"

said Tameryn Campbell, President & CEO, Masonic Health System/The Overlook. "Today is about opening and expanding opportunities, strengthening and enhancing the health and well-being of our community, and renewing our obligation to our mission. We are proud of

our past and excited for
our future, the best is yet
to come!"

Following the ceremony, guests were invited to tour the new space, enjoy refreshments, live entertainment and learn more about the programs and services available to residents, patients and families.

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PRESIDENT/PUBLISHER

BRENDAN BERUBE
EDITOR

Preserving our rural character in a changing region

Drive along Route 20 in Sturbridge, down Main Street in Southbridge, or through the back roads of Brimfield and Holland, and you can see the story of Central Massachusetts written in the landscape. It is a story of farms and fields, of town commons and mill villages, of families who value both progress and tradition. That balance—between growth and preservation—is becoming harder to maintain.

New developments, from solar projects to commercial expansions, are forcing towns to wrestle with what kind of future they want. There is no denying the benefits of new tax revenue or modern infrastructure, but there is also no replacing woodlands once they are cleared, wetlands once they are filled, or farmland once it is paved. What makes our towns distinct is not how quickly they resemble larger suburbs, but how well they hold onto the things that make them different.

The good news is that local voices still matter. Residents can attend Planning Board hearings, weigh in on bylaw revisions, and support land trusts that work to protect open space. Town leaders have the tools—through zoning, conservation restrictions, and partnerships with state agencies—to shape development in ways that reflect community priorities rather than corporate blueprints.

The task before us is not to stop growth, but to guide it. Renewable energy, small businesses, and new housing can all be part of a healthy local economy if they are planned with foresight. The challenge is to ensure that short-term gains do not come at the expense of long-term identity. A development that erases a farm field or blocks a scenic view may bring dollars to a tax roll, but it also chips away at the rural character that drew people here in the first place.

As decisions are made in meeting rooms across our towns this fall, let's remember that the character of a place is fragile. Once lost, it cannot be easily rebuilt. Preserving the heart of our communities—our landscapes, our history, our sense of place—must remain at the center of every planning conversation.

Letter submission policy

Letters to the Editor must include the author's name, address, and a daytime phone number for purposes of verification in order to be considered for publication. Only the author's name and the town in which they reside will be published. Letters submitted without all of the required information will not be accepted.

It is the sole prerogative of the Editor to determine whether a submission satisfies our requirements and decency standards, and any submission may be rejected at any time for any reason he or she might deem appropriate.

OPINION

Giving up

I don't know about you, but for a variety of reasons, including recent events in our world and country, I have felt like giving up.

On social media, in pointing out the ubiquitous hatred and division in our country and inviting us to do better, especially as Christians professing a gospel of love, a few people responded saying, "Remember who is doing the dividing!" My whole point was that we all are contributing to the division when we make precisely those types of comments. Why, then, do I bother? Why do I bother trying to be a patient, calm voice in the tumult? Why do I try loving people on the "other" side of the aisle when so many carry a "God is with me, not with them" attitude? Anything I say or do will likely be judged and used as fodder to multiply the hate-filled division anyway, so I might as well give up, join the rancorous chorus or turn my back on people entirely.

There are lots of other reasons I've contemplated giving up as well. The prayers, hopes and dreams I have, and I think God has, for the church I serve and for my family are not turning into reality. I can't help but think it's my fault.

Life has a way of stinking sometimes, doesn't it? At times we want to throw our hands up in the air and stop caring. Certainly stop loving and putting our best forward because, well, what's the point? We begin thinking nothing can or will come of even our best efforts to do good for our neighbors. Why bother? Giving up is easier.



BEYOND
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But give me a second to preach to myself and to anyone else who may be contemplating giving up on being good, kind, caring, loving, a force for unity rather than division. I'd like to remind us of what Jesus says in Luke 17:20-21, that the "kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, 'Here it is,' or 'There it is,' because the kingdom of God is in your midst." Another translation is, "... the kingdom of God is within you."

Either translation, what is Jesus is saying is that each person has the choice whether or not to live within the kingdom of God and, if the choice is made, that person can take the kingdom of God around with them. You and I can become little slivers of the kingdom of God wherever we go.

Maybe, on a macro scale, my work and my life will amount to nothing; maybe the social ideals I strive toward will be trampled; maybe the kingdom of God will never be observed in my lifetime. But I can still choose to accept the kingdom of a radically loving and compassionate Christ into my life and, therefore, carry it around with me wherever I go. And then who knows who might receive a needed boost while encountering the kingdom? That, alone, I think is worth not giving up.

Stay strong, stay good. Don't lose hope because you think people are misguided, hypocritical, playing the blame game of hate and division, stoking violence and injustice. You—even you—can be the source of God's hope within you and carry it with you wherever you go.

Psychic driving!

In the late 1950s, patients walked into Montreal's Allan Memorial Institute expecting treatment for anxiety, depression, or everyday struggles of the mind. What many of them encountered instead was the work of Dr. Ewen Cameron, a psychiatrist with an outsized reputation and a dangerous obsession with "reprogramming" the human brain. Cameron believed he could break down a person's mind and rebuild it from scratch. His methods were as crude as they were cruel.

He called it "Psychic Driving." Patients were put under heavy sedation, often for weeks at a time, and then forced to listen to negative phrases looped again and again through speakers or headphones. Sometimes the messages ran for 16 hours a day.

The results were devastating. Patients developed crippling fear, confusion, and dependency. Families reported that their loved ones came home like strangers—haunted not by their original illnesses, but by the relentless flood of negative suggestions that had hollowed them out.

One former patient described her experience years later. She recalled being placed in a hospital room, sedated, and wired to a tape recorder that played commands, accusations, or statements of worthlessness, repeated until they carved themselves into her mind like grooves in a record. "You are weak. You will never get better. You're worthless!" Hour after hour, day after day, the messages ran until they became the background noise of her mind.

While most of us were never subjected to cruel experiments, many of us know what it's like to live with words that cut deep. Some of those words didn't come from strangers in a lab coat, but from the people closest to us.

The child who was told "you'll never amount to anything" grows into an adult who whispers the same phrase to themselves before every job interview.

The athlete who was told, "you always choke under pressure," starts to believe it, replaying the line before every big game until it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The student who constantly hears "you're not smart enough" can carry that soundtrack into adulthood, replaying it in moments of stress until

it feels like the truth.

I recall a history teacher in high school who would stand in front of the class and call us "a bunch of losers." He didn't just say it once—he said it often, as if repeating it might make it accurate. Thankfully, I'd been raised to believe otherwise.

For years, psychologists have documented what happens when people are repeatedly exposed to harsh or abusive words. Over time, those external voices get internalized, turning into the person's own inner critic.

Researchers at UCLA found that repeated negative self-talk actually reshapes the brain. The brain begins to treat your own words like weapons. A single negative phrase repeated often enough rewires your entire system of motivation, and the only way to cope is to shut down and detach.

But here's the good news—those stories aren't permanent. Psychic driving can work both ways. As hard as it feels at the moment, you can interrupt them.

The next time you catch yourself repeating the same old phrases, flip the script. Tell yourself: "I'm a winner. I'm strong. I'm healthy. I am loved. I'm rising higher. I have what it takes."

You won't believe it at first; it will feel fake, as if you're lying to yourself. But keep saying it—because the more you speak life over yourself, the more your mind and spirit will begin to believe it. You'll feel empowered; you'll see opportunities where you once only saw dead ends.

Repetition works both ways. If negative words can burrow deep and take root, then positive ones can heal, strengthen, and grow.

While we can't all be star athletes or famous actors, every one of us carries strengths that no one else can duplicate. It may be your creativity, kindness, or ability to solve problems in ways others can't.

When you begin to recognize and honor those gifts, you stop measuring yourself against someone else's spotlight and start shining on your own. That's when success becomes inevitable—not because you copied anyone else's path, but because you walked on your own with confidence. I believe in you. Now it's your turn to think the same.

Toby Moore is a columnist, the star of Emmy - Nominated A Separate Peace, and the CEO of Cubestream Inc.

Financial steps to prepare for Alzheimer's and dementia



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More than seven million Americans have Alzheimer's disease, according to a 2025 report from the Alzheimer's Association. The emotional toll of watching a loved one struggle with the memory loss, depression, anxiety, and cognitive decline is already overwhelming — but the financial burden can be significant too. Hopefully, this disease will never touch your family, but it's important to be financially prepared just in case. By planning to cover long-term care costs and creating a financial strategy for caregivers, you can help protect your family's financial well-being.

Expenses related to Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia can be extensive. Families often face ongoing medical treatment costs, medical equipment purchases, home safety modifications, prescription drugs and personal care supplies. Long-term care represents one of the largest health care costs not covered entirely by traditional Medicare, making advanced planning crucial.

Here are a few essential planning steps to consider:

Plan for care costs and identify insurance coverage. Start by understanding your family's health insurance options, including Medicare, supplemental policies, and veteran's benefits if applicable. Determine coverage for adult day care services, in-home care services, full-time residential care, and other long-term care options. Confirm whether you or your loved ones have long-term care policies or other insurance with long-term care riders.

In some states, Medicare offers Special Needs Plans (SNPs) for people living with dementia, including Alzheimer's. These plans specialize in care and coverage for beneficiaries with dementia, and only those diagnosed can enroll.

Identify assets and debts. Create a comprehensive picture of your family's financial position, including bank accounts, investments, property, and debts such as credit cards, mortgages, or lines of credit. You'll need this if you take over financial management for a loved one.

Ensure legal documents are in place. Work with an attorney to establish crucial documents like a durable power of attorney for finances and health care decisions. These documents should be created before someone is diagnosed or when they're just starting to show early signs of Alzheimer's, so they can understand what they're signing. Waiting until cognitive ability declines make the process more challenging and may require court procedures for conservatorship.

Consider a living trust. A living trust can hold financial assets and property while a successor trustee, like a trusted family member, manages money and makes investment decisions. While complex, these trusts can provide valuable protection for families dealing with a parent or older relative experiencing dementia.

Look for tax benefits. Caregivers who pay care costs out of pocket may qualify for tax credits and deductions. These benefits vary by state, so consult with a tax advisor about your eligibility.

Consider protective measures for early stages. If a loved one is showing

Improve your garden soil with fall leaves and landscape trimmings

Fall is a great time to improve your soil for next year's garden. Many of the resources needed are readily available and many are free at this time of the year.

Start by putting fall leaves to work in the garden. Use your mower with the bag attached to shred and collect fall leaves. Work them into the top eight to 12 inches of soil. They break down over winter, adding organic matter and nutrients to the soil before you begin planting in the spring.

Fall leaves are also a great resource for those of you minimizing soil disruption with no till, also known as no dig, soil care. Spread several inches of the leaves over the soil surface. The leaf mulch protects the soil in new and vacant gardens from erosion and compaction over the winter. They keep the soil a bit cooler in the spring so you may need to adjust your planting times.

Cover bare soil in perennial gardens and mixed borders with fall leaves. They are a great mulch, suppressing weeds, conserving moisture and improving the soil as they decompose. A layer of leaves insulates the soil, helping insects and other wildlife that overwinter underground. Plus, they are free.

Incorporating two to



Melinda Myers

Hugelkultur gardening, or mound gardens, takes the lasagna gardening method one step further with a bottom layer of logs, branches and fall leaves that decompose, adding organic matter and nutrients to the soil.

four inches of compost or other organic matter into the top eight to 12 inches of soil is another option. Organic matter adds nutrients but also improves drainage and aeration in heavy soil and increases water- and nutrient-holding capacity in fast draining soils.

Adding compost also builds the soil ecosystem. It increases the number and activity of beneficial soil organisms

such as good bacteria, fungi, microorganisms and insects. Healthy soil grows healthier plants more resistant to pests and environmental stresses.

Another no till method uses a five-inch layer of compost on top of non-shiny cardboard, covering the soil surface. The cardboard helps suppress the weeds and the compost provides the growing medium for seeds and transplants. The compost is replenished yearly, and the cardboard eventually breaks down, adding organic matter to the soil.

Convert landscape and garden trimmings, fall leaves and compost into a rich planting medium



GARDEN MOMENTS
.....
MELINDA MYERS

with lasagna gardening. This system employs composting methodology to build soil in free-standing or contained raised beds.

Start your lasagna garden by measuring and marking the layout of your garden bed. Cut any grass and weeds in this area very short and cover with moist newspaper or cardboard. This smothers any existing grass and weeds.

Next, add a two- to three-inch layer of peat moss or compost. Top this with four to eight inches of plant debris such as leaves, plant-based kitchen scraps, herbicide-free grass clippings, straw or similar materials. Sprinkle a bit of low nitrogen fertilizer over

this layer. Cover with an inch of compost. Repeat the layers, just like making lasagna, until your garden is 18 to 24 inches high.

Hugelkultur, or mound gardens take this one step further. The bottom layer is made of logs, branches and fall leaves. Do not include black walnut tree trimmings that are toxic to many plants or those of cedar and black locust that are very slow to decompose. The rotting logs and branches absorb water, making it available to the plants in the garden. As the tree trimmings decompose, they add organic matter and nutrients to the soil. Then top this with a lasagna garden.

The lasagna and Hugelkultur beds gradually settle but the benefits remain. Continue to build additional lasagna layers every few years on top of established beds as needed.

Select a method that best fits your gardening style. Investing time in building healthy soil reaps years of benefits.

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including the Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition and Small Space Gardening. She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated Melinda's Garden Moment radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and her Web site is www.MelindaMyers.com.

FINANCE

continued from page A6

signs of Alzheimer's or other dementia, you may want to set up auto-pay for bills, open joint checking accounts, freeze credit reports at major bureaus, consolidate or cancel credit cards, and monitor financial activities closely. This can help keep financial responsibilities flowing smoothly and prevent exploitation by scam artists.

A qualified financial advisor can help evaluate your family's overall situation and recommend appropriate strategies to prepare for potential dementia-related costs. They can work with your legal and tax professionals to help you put comprehensive protection in place.

While an Alzheimer's or dementia diagnosis will change everyone's life in your family, taking proactive financial steps can help ease the burden and provide greater confidence for the journey ahead. For more information, visit www.alz.org.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Please contact Trevor Nielsen, your local Edward Jones Advisor in Sturbridge at 508-347-1420 or trevor.nielsen@edwardjones.com.

Amropali Karmakar makes Summer Academic Achievement List at Georgia Southwestern State University

AMERICUS, Ga. — Amropali Karmakar, a resident of Auburn, made the Summer 2025 Academic Achievement List at Georgia Southwestern State University and was among 607 students recognized for scholastic achievement.

To be eligible for the Academic Achievement List, a student must previously earn at least 12 credit hours at GSW, be enrolled in 3 to 11 hours of courses, and earn a 3.5 or higher GPA.

Georgia Southwestern State University, located in Americus, Ga., is a public, four-year unit of the University System of Georgia with approximately 4,000 students. Georgia Southwestern offers outstanding professional programs of study as well as degrees in the arts, humanities, sciences and graduate programs in business, computer science, education, and nursing. Founded in 1906, Georgia Southwestern is recognized as one of the best value colleges in the nation. Visit www.gsw.edu for more information.



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Cornerstone Bank helps tackle local hunger with \$3,000 donation to Community Harvest Project

WORCESTER — Cornerstone Bank, a community bank with locations throughout Central Massachusetts, has continued its commitment to fighting food insecurity with a \$3,000 donation to Community Harvest Project, a non-profit farm that engages volunteers to grow fresh fruits and vegetables for hunger relief across Central and Eastern Massachusetts. The donation builds on the bank's \$3,000 gift in 2024 and \$2,000 gift in 2023, and is part of a broader relationship that includes regular volunteer efforts by Cornerstone Bank employees at Community Harvest Project's farms.

“Cornerstone Bank is proud to partner with Community Harvest Project,” said Todd Tallman, CEO of Cornerstone Bank. “Food insecurity continues to impact thousands of our neighbors, and CHP’s work ensures that families have access not only to food, but to fresh, healthy produce. We’re honored to support their mission both financially and through the volunteer efforts of our team.”

Community Harvest Project is the largest community farm in Central Massachusetts, with locations in Grafton and Harvard. In 2024 alone, the organization hosted more than 6,300 volunteers who grew and



Cornerstone Bank employees and interns volunteered with Community Harvest Project.

donated 188,501 pounds of fruits and vegetables to 26 partner agencies serving more than 60,800 food-insecure individuals. With food insecurity

rates in Worcester County still more than double pre-pandemic levels, CHP remains a vital source of fresh, healthy produce for families who

might otherwise go without.

Cornerstone Bank employees have volunteered more than 300

hours at CHP farms since 2022, joining community members in planting, harvesting and packaging produce that directly benefits local families.

About Cornerstone Bank

Cornerstone Bank was formed in 2017, born of a long history of supporting the community, and providing a strong foundation to help people and businesses thrive. Serving Worcester County, Massachusetts, Cornerstone Bank’s local presence and community-based banking model enables a unique ability to deliver outstanding service, with a personal touch. Cornerstone, which is a subsidiary of PeoplesBankCorp, MHC, operating independently under its own name and brand, provides the highest level of service and expertise for individuals, businesses, and community organizations with branch locations throughout Central Massachusetts. Cornerstone works to connect customers with opportunities through a broad range of deposit and loan products and services. Built on Trust is not just a tagline, but also one of our guiding corporate values. Whether a business or personal partnership, Cornerstone stands on the foundation that relationships are built on trust. To learn about Cornerstone Bank’s personal and business banking offerings, please visit cornerstone-bank.com or call 800-939-9103.

Courtesy

Bay Path represented at critical conference on point-of-care hypoglycemia detection

BOSTON — On Sept. 24, Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina, DHA, MSN Ed, RN, CRRN, of Athol, participated and represented Bay Path in the conference titled “Undetected Point-of-Care Hypoglycemia Can Be Life-Threatening to the Patient” at The Westin Waltham-

Boston. The event focused on the critical issue of glucose meter accuracy and its impact on patient safety in hospital settings. Dr. Bolandrina was invited to attend by Kelli-Anne Coombs-Cink, BSMT(ASCP), Account Executive, Point of Care NE at Nova Biomedical.

The conference was preceded by a casual welcome reception on the evening of Sept. 23 from 5 to 8 p.m. at the same hotel, where registered attendees enjoyed light snacks, drinks, and engaging conversations. The reception provided a valuable opportunity to network, exchange ideas, and prepare for the educational sessions to follow. The program was approved by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) for 2.5 Continuing Education Recognition Points (CERPs), Synergy CERP Category A, File Number 25635. It also offered 2.5 hours of P.A.C.E. continuing education credits. It’s important to note that AACN’s approval relates only to the continuing education provided and does not imply endorsement of the content or products discussed.

Glucose testing at the bedside is among the most commonly performed procedures in hospitals. Despite its routine nature, the accuracy of glucose meter results is often overlooked. Recent studies have highlighted that interference from medications and other endogenous factors can cause inaccurate readings, leading to improper treatment decisions. Alarming, such errors have occasionally resulted in catastrophic outcomes, including insulin administration to hypoglycemic patients, prolonged hospital stays, and increased healthcare costs. The conference addressed these challenges by



exploring how improved glucose meter accuracy can enhance patient outcomes. Topics covered included methods for evaluating glucose meter systems, the impact of interfering substances like hematocrit, acetaminophen, and ascorbic acid, and strategies to prevent adverse events caused by inaccurate glucose readings. Additionally, the program discussed the implementation of interference-free point-of-care glucose testing systems in hospitals, with special attention to critically ill patients, as well as relevant FDA and CMS regulations.

The expert panel of speakers featured:

Nam Tran, Ph.D., M.S., HCLD (ABB), CLS, MLS (ASCP)cm, FAACC — Associate Dean and Vice Chair for Biobanking, University of Pittsburgh and UPMC Pathology

Dennis Begos, MD, FACS, FACRS — Senior Medical Director, Medical and Scientific Affairs, Nova Biomedical; former Surgeon and Chair of Surgery at Winchester Hospital, MA; Assistant Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine

Jorge A. Gomez, MHA, BS, MT(ASCP) — System Point of Care Manager, Banner Hospitals/Laboratory Sciences of Arizona

Dr. Bolandrina’s attendance and participation underscore her commitment to advancing patient safety through evidence-based practices and continual professional development in critical care nursing.

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Courtesy
Norcross Director Lucas McDiarmid of Palmer, Norcross Executive Director Ed Hood, Wales Community Pantry Executive Director Ann Davidson, Norcross Director Bridget Ward of Wales, and Pantry Volunteer, Susan Gregory.

WALES — The Wales Community Pantry serves 344 people in our community and handles 12,000 pounds of food each month. To meet growing demand and provide for a better

working space, the Pantry recently relocated from its home of 20 years under the Wales Senior Center to its new facility on Route 20, at the beginning of the north side of the divided high-

way heading west, at 172 Palmer Rd. in Brimfield. To support their important work and the costs associated with this move, The Norcross Wildlife Foundation presented Ann Davidson,

the Pantry’s Executive Director, with a grant for \$5,000. Wales resident, and member of the Norcross Board of Directors, Bridget Ward, not-

ed how glad she and the other Directors, and the staff, at Norcross, are for the important work done by the Pantry and its volunteers.

For more information on the Pantry, go to <https://walescommunitypantry.com/> or call at (413) 245-0055.

From plant biology to patient care — LPN’s journey of resilience and dedication

CHARLTON — For Emmanuel Nyah of Leicester, the path to becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse was not a straight line, but a challenging, trans-continental journey fueled by an unwavering commitment to his family and an unbreakable spirit. Now, a new LPN at Vibra Hospital in Rochdale, Nyah’s story is a powerful testament to perseverance against formidable odds.

“I had one goal in my mind, which was to set myself up to take good care of my family,” Nyah shared. “I faced obstacles I never envisioned or envisaged, but I always believed in my mantra: ‘Every sea that has people on the other side of the shore is crossable, and when we get to the bridge, we will cross it.’”

Nyah’s journey into healthcare began at the foundational level, working as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Jewish Healthcare in Worcester and later at Brookside Rehabilitation in Webster. There, he built a solid base in bedside care, assisting with vitals, supporting patients with their activities of daily living (ADLs), and serving as a crucial link to the nursing team.

This hands-on experience cemented his desire to advance his skills. He enrolled in the Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy initially, where he was elected as the Student Representative, and then the Practical Nursing program at Assabet Valley Technical High School, where his natural leadership abilities shone further. His peers elected him Class President for the 2024-2025 academic year, a role in which he demonstrated exceptional teamwork and communication skills. Nyah’s professional qualifications are extensive: he is certified in Health Care Provider/Basic Life Support CPR, Dementia Care, and Mental Health First Aid.

His transition into nursing is even more remarkable given his extensive academic background in a different scientific field. Nyah holds a Bachelor of Science in Microbiology from the University of Calabar in Nigeria and a Master of Science in Plant Biology from Tel Aviv University in Israel. This unique perspective gives him a deep-rooted appreciation for the complexities of biological systems, both in plants and now, in people.

Nyah credits his success to his profound faith and a robust support system. “My inspiration and motivation come from within,” he said. “I’m poised to show people like me—who come from my situation or environment—that anything is possible with the right attitude and mindset.”

He expressed deep gratitude for those who stood by him, including God, the Burlingame family, and especially his



Emmanuel Nyah

fiancée, Len.

“They never judged, never questioned, and always supported me,” he remarked.

His daughter, Imaobong, remains his greatest inspiration.

“If I didn’t have her, I would have given up when the storms raged,” Nyah said, also expressing appreciation for Dr. Gretheline Bolandrina of Bay Path Practical Nursing Academy.

“You’re a big part of it, and I’m grateful for your mentorship,” he said.

Upon completing his certificate in June 2025, Nyah tackled the NCLEX-PN exam, passing on his first attempt—a significant achievement that speaks to his diligence and competence. He has now begun his career as an LPN at Vibra Hospital, where he works with a complex patient population, including individuals with tracheostomies, ventilators, G-tubes, and traumatic brain injuries.

Emmanuel Nyah’s story is not just one of career changes but of profound personal growth and determination. It is a hopeful reminder that with faith, a strong support network, and an unyielding will to succeed, any obstacle can be overcome.

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OBITUARY

Armand Lucien Carpentier, 89



Charlton ~ Armand Lucien Carpentier, 89, of Charlton, MA, died peacefully on Tuesday September 23, 2025, at the Charlton Manor Rest Home with his wife of 66 years, Irene, at his side.

He was born October 2, 1936, in Worcester, MA, to Sylvio and Simonne (Maynard) Carpentier. He is survived by his wife, Irene; his sister, Jeanne Kelly (Carpentier), of Plant City, FL; his six children Paul Carpentier and his wife Suzanne (Fontaine) of Long Island, NY; Michelle Leufstedt (Carpentier) her husband David of Sebastian, FL; Diane Dabrowski (Carpentier) of Charlton, MA; John Carpentier and his wife Dominique (Bergeron) of Kennebunkport, ME; Julie Carpentier of Charlton, MA;

David Carpentier and his wife Judy Bonneau of Webster, MA; 13 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his granddaughter, Emily Dabrowski.

Armand was raised in Charlton at Dresser Hill Farm, and educated at La Salette Seminary in Hartford, CT., and Worcester Jr. College. He married Irene A. (Niehues) Carpentier on September 19, 1959. He served in the U.S. Army Reserves with active duty 1961-62 during the Berlin crisis. He was owner/operator of Carpentier's Market in Charlton Center from 1959-73 after which he transitioned to Real Estate, as a licensed Broker, Appraiser and owner of Charlton Center Realty for over 30 years.

Armand was a member at St. Joseph's Church in Charlton and dedicated community servant, volunteering for dozens of Charlton and Worcester County committees, in-

cluding founding member of South Central Rehabilitative Resources Inc. (now Venture), serving 32 years as Director, and Board Chair; Southern Worcester County Regional Vocational School Site Committee (Bay Path); and Director, Charlton Economic Development, circa 1995-2000. He was awarded Charlton Citizen of the Year and received the Tri-Community Exchange Club Golden Deeds Award in 2008. In retirement, Armand & Irene enjoyed traveling the country in their RV, crafting stained glass, making amazing soups, and cherishing their grandchildren and recent great-grand babies. His proudest accomplishments were developing the Salem Town House replica in Charlton Center, raising six children, and serving as 'Le Pepere' to 13 grandchildren, designing intricate woodland treasure hunts, and authoring individualized stories with each grandchild as the

protagonist and heroine

Sansoucy Funeral Home, 40 Marcy Street, Southbridge, MA is entrusted with Armand's funeral services. Calling hours will be Thursday, October 2, 2025 at St. Joseph's Church, 10 H. Putnam Road Extension, Charlton, MA, from 4:00-6:00 pm. Armand's Funeral Mass will be Friday October 3, 2025, at St. Joseph's at 11:00 am. Burial will immediately follow at West Ridge Cemetery, Main Street, Charlton, MA. An online guest book is available at sansoucyfuneral.com. In lieu of flowers, the family asks you to consider making memorial donations to either Venture (venturecs.org) or St. Joseph's Church Building Fund, 10 H. Putnam Road Ext., Charlton, MA 01507.



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St. John Paul II Parish invites guests to organ concert for Jubilee of Hope

SOUTHBRIDGE — St. John Paul II parish invites the public to Notre Dame Church in Southbridge for a special concert on their historic Casavant organ for the 2025 Jubilee of Hope.

On Sunday, Oct. 12, guests will experience a moving multi-chorus performance on the Notre Dame Church's

Tapin Memorial Organ, featuring accomplished organist Maria Czarnecka-Cieslak and soloist Rev. Dr. Zbigniew Stepniak. The concert will also include choral accompaniment by ensembles from Our Lady of Czesnochowa Church in Boston, and St. Joseph Basilica in Webster. The concert will be held in

the Notre Dame Church at 446 Main St. in Southbridge. The concert is free to attend, and will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. Attendees are invited to stay after the conclusion for complementary light refreshments as well.

Installed in 1915, the Tapin Memorial Organ was named after the first organist to play at Notre

Dame Church, Professor Eugene Tapin. Boasting an impressive 48 stops and 4,370 pipes, the organ is a Casavant, built by the Casavant Freres Company of St. Hyacinth, Canada in the early 20th century. It is still in impeccable condition today and is used regularly in Mass.

This concert is a part of the observance of the 2025 Jubilee of Hope celebrated in the universal Church and the Worces-

ter Diocesan Jubilee year. Every 25 years, the Church celebrates her birthday with a Jubilee. The Diocesan Jubilee happens to be the same year as the universal Church's Jubilee in Rome, but these are two separate celebrations. This local Jubilee celebrates the founding of the Diocese of Worcester in March 1950.

St. John Paul II Parish is a Roman Catholic community located in South-

bridge. The mission of the church is to foster a united community that encourages individuals and families to grow and strengthen their relationship with faith. The parish is based out of two locations in Southbridge, St. Mary Church and Notre Dame Church. St. John Paul II Parish hosts events year-round and regularly welcomes new members into the faith.

Joshua Hyde Public Library offers monthly book groups

STURBRIDGE — Come join the Joshua Hyde Public Library for their monthly book groups. They are as follows:

AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP - Tuesday, Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. This month's book is "The Magnifi-

cent Lives of Marjorie Post" by Allison Pataki.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELERS BOOK GROUP - Wednesday, Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m. This month's book is "The Berry Pickers" by Amanda Peters.

WORLD BUILDING

BOOK GROUP - Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m. This month's book is "The Aeronaut's Windlass" by James Butcher.

For more information and to register for programs, go to strubridgelibrary.org.

Charlton Garden Club meets Monday

CHARLTON — The Charlton Garden Club's Monday, Oct. 6 meeting welcomes all to a free program on Natural Herbal Medicine.

Speaker Sallie Green is the owner of Alternatives for Health: Herbal

Apothecary in Sturbridge. Whether you're a novice or accomplished gardener, the Charlton Garden Club is a great place to meet other gardening enthusiasts, learn about plants and planting, and to share

your gardening tips and experiences. This meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Charlton Public Library.

For more information, please email charltongardenclub@gmail.com.

AUTO SHOW

continued from page A1

and athletic fellowship of local firefighters, as well as the ongoing restoration of the Buffalo Fire Truck -- and Hitchcock Academy, the area's community center serving people of all ages throughout the region by providing educational, recreational and cultural activities throughout the year.

These two organizations work closely together on this premiere event that is the largest show in the region, with nearly 800 enthusiasts showcasing their prized possessions and drawing thousands of auto enthusiasts of all ages and backgrounds from throughout the state and beyond.

The show isn't limited to just antique cars alone -- it includes vintage varieties such as muscle cars and street rods, custom cruisers,

classic imports, antique fire apparatus, trucks, even utility vehicles.

One fire apparatus of note is the 1927 Buffalo Fire Truck bought by the town almost 100 years ago and currently being lovingly restored by Brimfield firefighters. The truck was originally in service until the mid-1960s. Sold to a local museum, it was later returned to the town 15 years ago. The Association is working to restore the vehicle to running condition and will proudly display it at this year's show.

Awards will be presented in 26 categories along with Best in Show, People's Choice, and a selection by the Brimfield Firefighters Association. 81 trophies will be handed out.

Executive Director Cindy Skowrya says, "We are grateful for the support and the opportunity to be a part of the show

working alongside with the Brimfield Firefighters Association. We are so thankful to everyone who contributed to the program book as well as organizers, volunteers, and participants, and of course to our host the Brimfield Winery and Auction Acres. We look forward to another memorable, joyful event that brings people together and revs up our sense of community."

Volunteers and additional judges are always needed. Hitchcock can connect anyone interested in participating.

For more information, visit www.hitchcockacademy.org. Hitchcock Academy is a community center located at 2 Brookfield Rd. in Brimfield, serving the community with educational, recreational, and cultural programming.



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LEGALS

**NOTICE OF SALE
Lein Sale**
Request a Notice of Lein Sale be Published on the following listed Units
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 256 & 682
Jacob McCart
76 Park Rd.,
Charlton, MA 01507
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 278
Robert Hearnlaye
14A Bay Path Rd
Charlton, MA 01507
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 073
Kevin Mondor
274 Charlton Street Apt. 2
Southbridge, MA 01550
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 60 Ryan Brosnihah
31 Colicum Dr
Charlton, MA 01507
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 563 Augustine Mensatc
426 Springfield Rd
CliftonHeights, PA 19018
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 160 Tyler Nanigan
4 Solar Cirlce
Haydenville, MA 01039
Household & Misc, Items
Unit No 109 Kyle Ryan
68 Osgood Rd
Charlton, MA 01507
LEIN SALE WILL BE HELD:
Date: 10/15/25
Time: 12 Noon
Location: 94 Brookfield Rd., Charlton
MA 01507
September 26, 2025
October 3, 2025

SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES
Under G.L. c.255 Sec.39A
Notice is hereby given by
Cruise Control Transportation Inc.
Pursuant to the provisions of G.L.
c. 255, Section 39A. that on or after
October 3,2025 at Cruise Control
Transportation Inc. the following motor
vehicle/s will be sold at private sale to
satisfy our garage keeper's lien there-
on for storage, towing charges, care
and expenses of notices and sale of
said vehicle:

VEHICLE :2017 HONDA RIDGELINE
VIN:5FPYK3F64HB005569
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED
OWNER :

Michael Francis Jandreau
691 GUELPHWOOD RD
SOUTHBRIDGE MA 01550

VEHICLE :2009 SUBARU FORESTER
VIN:JF2SH63679H709917
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED
OWNER:

JEREMIAH LEE JAMES
51 LAWERENCE ST
VERNON CT 06066

VEHICLE :2018 Volkswagen Atlas
VIN:1V2KR2CA5JC574610
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED
OWNER :

ITZAYANA RACHELL
3 DOUGLAS AVE UNIT 3 F
NIANTIC CT,06357

VALDERRAMA RIVERA
3 DOUGLEAS AVE UNIT 3 F
NIANTIC CT,06357

VEHICLE : 1995 CHEVEROLET
TAHOE
VIN:1GNEK13K6SJ423057
LAST REGISTERED OWNER :
RUSSELL L BOND
93 PINE ST
SOUTHBRIDGE MA, 01550

VEHICLE: 2008 HONDA ACCORD
VIN: 1HGCP25328A060179
LAST REGISTERED OWNER:
VICTOR OCASIO-ALGARIN
37 LINDEN ST
NEW LONDON CT,06320

VEHICLE : 2018 INFINITI Q50
VIN:JN1EV7AR9JM440390
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED
OWNER:
KELVIN MANU
17 NUTMEG DR
WORCESTER MA,01603

VEHICLE: 2011 HYUNDAI SONATA
VIN:5NPEB4AC3BH091285
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED
OWNER :
MIRANDA CONSULTING LLC
BRIDGEPORT CT,06610

VEHICLE: 2008 TOYOTA YARIS
VIN:JTDJ923X85187043
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED
OWNER :
EAMON THRALL
300 MIAN ST,APT 3
CHICOPEE MA,01020

VEHICLE :2012 JEEP COMPASS
VIN:1C4NJDEB1CD633589
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED

OWNER:
HARRY MARTINEZ RUIZ
49 PLEASANT VALLY DR,APT 609
WORCESTER MA ,01605

VEHICLE: 2014 NISSAN SENTRA
VIN:3N1AB7APXEY204775
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED
OWNER:
THOMAS MAHER
11675 GREAT OAKS WAY
ALPHARETTA GA,30022

VEHICLE: 2006 HONDA ACCORD
VIN: 1HGCM56776A174820
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED
OWNER :
JOSTEN ENRIQUE ROMAN-
ROSARIO
205 WINTHROP ST,APT A1
TAUNTON MA, 02780

VEHICLE :2007 TOYOTA COROLLA
VIN: 2T1BR32EX7C769565
LAST KNOWN REGITERED OWNER:
ABIEZER RIVERA
14 LAGRANGE ST
WORCESTER MA,01610

VEHICLE:2008 MATRIX
VIN:2T1KR30E58C86646
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED
OWNER:
NICOLE JOHNSON
61 CONESTOGA TRAIL
BROOKFIELD MA , 01506

VEHICLE: 2011 FORD ESCAPE
VIN: 1FMCU9D77BKB50431
LAST KNOWN REGISTERED
OWNER:
KATHLEEN A JOHNSON
1 HITCHCOCK RD,APT 1
WORCESTER MA,01603
September 19,2025
September 26,2025
October 3,2025

TOWN OF CHARLTON
INVITATION FOR BIDS
WINTER WASHED SAND

Bid packages for Winter Washed Sand will be available on October 6, 2025, and must be obtained from the Office of the Town Administrator prior to the submission of the bid. To obtain a copy of the bid package, contact the Office of the Town Administrator either by email: mary.devlin@townofcharlton.net, phone: (508) 248-2206, or pick up at the Town Administrator's Office, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507. Sealed bids appropriately marked "Winter Washed Sand Bid" will be received, publicly opened and read aloud in Meeting Room 1, Charlton Municipal Offices, 37 Main Street, Charlton, MA 01507 on Thursday, October 23, 2025, after the bid closes at 1:00 p.m. The Town Administrator in his capacity as Chief Procurement Officer reserves the right to waive any minor informality in the bids and reject any or all bids and to make awards in a manner deemed to be in the best interest of the Town.October 2, 2025
October 9, 2025

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 10/14/2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by Thomas Flynn for a Retaining Wall and Set of Stairs up to Deck 47 LakeRidge Drive, (Map R04-A6) Holland, MA 01521. To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person. The application is available for review by at the Conservation Commission Office, Town Office Building on Mondays (1:00 PM – 4:00 PM) and Tuesdays (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM).
Conservation Commission
Town of Holland
October 2, 2025

In accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, Chapter 131, Sec 40, a public hearing by the Holland Conservation Commission will be held on Tuesday 10/14/2025 at 6:30 p.m. in the Conservation Commission Room, second floor, in the Holland Town Hall, at 27 Sturbridge Rd, Holland, MA. This meeting is to review a Notice of Intent (NOI) filed by Black Rose Realty Group, LLC for a Campground Development, with Gravel Drive, Bathhouse, Office and Public Well at Mashapaug Road, (Map 10-A-5) Holland, MA 01521. To comply with the Open Meeting Law, all public hearings are scheduled for 6:30 PM and, barring unforeseen circumstances, will be taken in the order in which they appear on the agenda. This meeting will be held in person. The application is available for review by at the Conservation Commission Office,

Town Office Building on Mondays (1:00 PM – 4:00 PM) and Tuesdays (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM).
Conservation Commission
Town of Holland
October 2, 2025

Joshua Hyde Public Library Deck and Ramp
SECTION 00 11 16 - INVITATION
FOR BIDS

Sealed bids for furnishing the Joshua Hyde Public Library Deck and Ramp will be received at the Office of the Town Administrator, Sturbridge Town Hall, 308 Main Street, Sturbridge, MA 01566 until the time specified below at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read. Specifications and bid forms may be obtained online on the Town of Sturbridge website, <https://www.sturbridge.gov/bids>. The project site is open to the public, located at 306 Main Street Sturbridge, MA. Bids will be opened in the Sturbridge Town Hall, Veteran's Memorial Hall, Second Floor at 308 Main Street by the Office of the Town Administrator on October 16th, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. Each Bid must be accompanied by a bid security consisting of a BID BOND, CASH, or, CERTIFIED CHECK issued by a responsible bank or trust company in the amount of 5% of the bid price. A performance bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total amount of the contract price with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will be required for the faithful performance of the contract, as well as a labor and materials bond in an amount equal to 100 percent of the total contract price. All bids for this project are subject to applicable public bidding laws of Massachusetts, including, but not limited to G.L. c.149, §§44A-44H, as amended.

Attention is directed to the minimum wage rates to be paid as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development and the weekly payroll record submittal requirements under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Sections 26 through 27D inclusive. Selection of the contractor will be based upon bidder qualifications, including evidence of past performance in similar projects, and bid price. The contract will be awarded to the bidder deemed by the awarding authority to be the lowest responsible and eligible bidder. The bidder agrees that its bid shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of 30 days, Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, after the opening of the bids. The Town reserves the right to waive any informalities, to accept or reject, in whole or in part any or all bids, or take whatever other action may be deemed to be in the best interest of the Town. The Town of Sturbridge

SECTION 00 21 13 - INSTRUCTIONS TO BIDDERS
1. RECEIPT AND OPENING OF BIDS
The Town of Sturbridge, Massachusetts, herein called the Owner, acting by and through its Board of Selectmen, will receive sealed Bids for the project known as the Joshua Hyde Public Library Deck and Ramp Project. October 2, 2025
October 9, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate
and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3314EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL ADJUDICATION**
Estate Of:
Ida M Czyzewski
Also known as: Ida Czyzewski
Date of Death: 06/06/2020

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Linda Czyzewski of Southbridge MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested

in the Petition.
The Petitioner requests that:
Linda Czyzewski of Southbridge MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**
IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/21/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 22, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 2, 2025

CHARLTON CONSERVATION
COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, the Charlton Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on October 8, 2025, at 7PM on the application of PMZ Development LLC. The applicant has submitted a Request for Determination of Applicability for the demolition of an existing residential dwelling and the construction of a new one with only a portion of the work within 100-FT of Little Nugget Lake. Address: 116 Nugget Drive, Charlton, MA, 01507. Parcel ID: 20A-C-10 Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting of the Charlton Conservation Commission will be conducted in person and via remote means. Members of the public who wish to participate can access the meeting remotely by request. Copies of the RDA may be examined at the Conservation Office by appointment during business hours. Thomas O'Malley
Chair, Charlton Conservation Commission
October 2, 2025

Town of Holland Zoning Board of Appeals
Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with M.G. L Chapter 40A the Holland Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, October 15, 2025 at 7:15 p.m.** at the Holland Town Hall, 27 Sturbridge Rd, 1st Floor Community Room, Holland, MA 01521. If dial in access is needed, please contact the Town Hall at 413-245-7108 x101. The purpose of the hearing is to consider a request from **Dan & Nicole Braskie** for a **Special Permit** according to Holland Bylaw section 7. **Relief requested:** Remove & replace existing cottage with a new construction on a pre-existing non-conforming lot and a septic system across the street. The property located at: **21 Island Rd.** Parcel ID # **R10 – A - 24**
Don Beal, Chairperson
Zoning Board of Appeals
Date: _9/25/2025____
October 2, 2025

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SISTERS

continued from page A1

“We were really taken aback by the support. As a family we discussed how the community has supported us so much with this book we didn’t think would happen, so let’s turn around and help support and give back to the community

ourselves,” Sabrina said. Scarlett and her 11-year-old sister Stella decided to support CHIP-IN, where they knew their contributions would make an impact. Scarlett embarked on a small book tour which included appearances at the Charlton Library, Charlton Farmer’s Market, and venturing into

nearby Northeastern Connecticut where she appeared at New Boston Beef in Thompson and was interviewed by local radio station WINY in Putnam. Stella added her own artistic talents to the cause by selling her handmade jewelry during the book tour: Together, the sisters raised around \$500 that they

used to purchase fresh produce from Blackmer Farm. The girls were proud of their efforts and spoke about the significance of supporting CHIP-IN. “It’s really important,” Scarlett said. “There are people out there that don’t have enough food like other people do.”

“It was important because at the food pantry they make buckets of food to give to people who don’t have a lot of money,” her sister Stella added. “We wanted to give them fresh food, so they’ll have a healthier diet.” The sisters plan to continue their support of CHIP-IN and Scarlett has

already begun laying out the framework for her next book. It’s expected to involve Farmer Molly, a character from “Farmer Todd Lost His Way Home,” and will be formatted as a cookbook. “Farmer Todd Lose His Way Home” is now available on Amazon.

ARSON

continued from page A1

without bail pending a dangerousness hearing on Oct. 1.

The origin and cause of the fire were investigated by the Southbridge Fire Department, Southbridge Police Department, and State Po-

lice fire investigators assigned to the State Fire Marshal’s office. Collectively, they determined that the fire began at the rear of 5-7 Union St. at ground level and spread from that area. They further determined that the fire had been intentionally set and continued to gather evidence.

As that investigation continued, Worcester County prosecutors presented evidence to a grand jury, which returned indictments charging Cruz-Rivera on Monday. Southbridge Police detectives located and apprehended him Thursday night.

A dozen families were

displaced by the early morning fire, which was reported at about 3:25 a.m. Firefighters and apparatus from more than a dozen regional depart-

ments responded to the seven-alarm fire and one Southbridge firefighter was transported for an injury he suffered during the seven-alarm

response. Working smoke alarms roused the buildings’ occupants, who all escaped safely but lost their homes and possessions.

POLICY

continued from page A1

The School Committee did not act on the policy in September as the Superintendent made it clear that he was introducing it for public feedback before the committee would potentially vote on the document in October. While a final deci-

sion wasn’t made, it did open the discussion for the need for increased awareness and communication regarding CTE programs. School Committee Vice Chair Cathleen Carmignani said she would like to see this process expedited. “I think more information needs to come out to middle school kids and families earlier. I

don’t necessarily think it has to be within this policy, but I think as a goal that would be a good thing,” she said. A copy of the policy has been made available for public review on the Dudley Charlton Regional School District website. A copy is also available with the agenda for the School Committee’s Sept. 24 meeting.

LEGALS

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

Premises: 22 -26 Winter Street, Southbridge, MA 01550

By virtue and in execution of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Dennis R Botcher and Anne Marie Bottcher to Great Western Mortgage Corporation, and now held by **U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust**, said mortgage dated November 30, 1990 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 13128, Page 260, as affected by an Assumption Agreement entered into by Paul Robert Dionne dated November 30, 1999 and recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book 22127, Page 214, as affected by a Loan Modification dated March 1, 2022 and recorded in said Registry of Deeds in Book 67134, Page 233; said mortgage was assigned from Great Western Mortgage Corporation to Great Western Bank, a Federal Savings Bank by assignment dated November 30, 1990 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 13128, Page 268; said mortgage was assigned from The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, acting in its Receivership capacity as Receiver for Washington Mutual Bank F/K/A Washington Mutual Bank, F.A. f/k/a American Savings Bank, FA s/b/m to Great Western Bank, a Federal Savings Bank to JP Morgan Chase Bank, National Association by assignment dated July 23, 2019 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 60763, Page 126; said mortgage was assigned from JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association to U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust by assignment dated October 24, 2022 and recorded with said Registry of Deeds in Book 69770, Page 334; for breach of the conditions in said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at **Public Auction on October 16, 2025 at 02:00 PM** Local Time upon the premises, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

The land with the buildings thereon situated in said Southbridge, with the buildings thereon, bounded and described as follows, viz: BEGINNING at an iron pin in the ground at a point on the easterly line of Winter Street, located about one hundred ninety (190) feet northerly from the intersection of the northerly line of South Street with said line of Winter Street (measuring by said Winter Street line); THENCE easterly on land now or formerly of Ruth L. Moulton about one hundred twenty-three (123) feet to an iron pin in the ground; THENCE northerly on land now or formerly of Andrew Wolenski, et ux and land now or formerly of Frank L. Gates, et ux, about sixty-six (66) feet to land now or formerly of Ernest A. Desrosier; THENCE westerly by land now or formerly of said Desrosier about one hundred twenty-three and five tenths (123.5) feet, to a point on said Winter Street line; and THENCE southerly by said Street line about seventy (70) feet to the point of beginning. Together with any interest of Grantors in said Street to the middle thereof.

The description of the property contained in the mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

For Mortgagor’s Title see deed dated November 30, 1999 and recorded in the Worcester County (Worcester District) Registry of Deeds in Book 22127, Page 214.

TERMS OF SALE: Said

premises will be sold and conveyed subject to all liens, encumbrances, unpaid taxes, tax titles, municipal liens and assessments, if any, which take precedence over the said mortgage above described.

FIVE THOUSAND (\$5,000.00) Dollars of the purchase price must be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check at the time and place of the sale by the purchaser. The balance of the purchase price shall be paid in cash, certified check, bank treasurer’s or cashier’s check within thirty (30) days after the date of sale. Other terms to be announced at the sale.

Brock & Scott, PLLC
23 Messenger Street
2nd Floor
Plainville, MA 02762
Attorney for U.S. Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual capacity but solely as owner trustee for RCF 2 Acquisition Trust
Present Holder of the Mortgage (401) 217-8701
September 18, 2025
September 25, 2025
October 2, 2025

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Worcester Probate and Family Court
225 Main Street
Worcester, MA 01608
(508) 831-2200
Docket No. WO25P3273EA
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION
Estate Of:
Clifford L Tucker
Also known as: Clifford Tucker
Date of Death: 04/28/2020**

To all interested persons:
A Petition for **Late and Limited Formal Testacy and/or Appointment** has been filed by **Leslie M Tucker of Woburn MA** requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Leslie M Tucker of Woburn MA** be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **unsupervised administration**

IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 10/21/2025.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)
A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.
WITNESS, Hon. Leilah A. Keamy, First Justice of this Court.
Date: September 18, 2025
Stephanie Fattman,
Register of Probate
October 2, 2025

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<https://www.mareinc.org/child/22660622673>

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If you’re at least 18 years old, have a stable source of income, and room in your heart, you may be a perfect match to adopt a waiting child. Adoptive parents can be single, married, or partnered; experienced or not; renters or homeowners; LGBTQ+ singles and couples. As an adoptive parent, you won’t have to pay any fees, adoption from foster care is completely free in Massachusetts.

The process to adopt a child from foster care includes training, interviews, and home visits to determine if adoption is right for you. These steps will help match you with a child or sibling group that your family will fit well with. To learn more about adoption from foster care visit www.mareinc.org . Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange (MARE) can give you guidance and information on the adoption process. Reach out today to find out all the ways you can help children and teens in foster care.




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- Listing price: \$550,000
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 - Basement: partial | Unfinished






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Principal

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JONAH D. GLICKMAN

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* June Cazeault * Laurie Sullivan* Lori Johnson-Chausse * William Gilmore II * Maureen Cimoch * Bryan Pelletier

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Northeast Metro Golden Knights 48-6. The Minuteman offense was led by Ethan Rodriguez along with Jahzian Toress, Dane Potenti, Cole Adams and Jayden Warren who all scored for the host Minuteman. Defensive standouts were Jackson Coughlin, Symeon Downie, Juliano Lopez. Matt Graves and Brian Finnegan each recorded an interception for the Minuteman defense.

Courtesy Bay Path's JV football team beat the visiting



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Gather With Family & Friends
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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
11 A.M. – 4 P.M.
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ON OUR 450-ACRE CAMPUS**

The Overlook's Annual Fall Festival is a tried-and-true tradition for the Greater Charlton community – an event that has something for anyone of any age. You and your family are invited to participate in exciting seasonal activities, including:

- ✗ Savoring local flavors from an array of food trucks
- ✗ Sipping craft beers from our featured beer truck, Oakholm Brewing Company
- ✗ Browsing unique creations from artisan vendors
- ✗ Crafting and games
- ✗ Enjoying live entertainment, hayrides, and more



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The Overlook has been awarded Best of Central Mass Senior Living Community by Worcester Telegram & Gazette eight years running.



Charlton Library Friends hold Trivia Night

CHARLTON — The non-profit Friends of Charlton Public Library will hold a Trivia Night on Thursday, Oct. 16 at the Charlton Beagle Club, 103 Bond Road in Charlton. The event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Friends invite the general public to test their knowledge and challenge their friends as they attempt to answer a variety of questions provided by Wise Guys Trivia. In addition, attendees will have an opportunity to enter a raffle to win prizes such as a pickleball set, seasonal items, a game package, window garden, gift cards for local businesses, and more. A cash prize will be awarded to the overall winner.

The Friends extend thanks to our generous sponsors: Better Life With Yoga, Blush Photography, Red Door Realty, and Volume Hair Studio of Southbridge. We appreciate the businesses that donated raffle items, including Alternatives For Health, Anglez, Booklover's Gourmet, Charlton Food Mart, Entertainment Luxury Cinema, Frito-Lay, Golden Nails, Savage Smash, Sturbridge Coffee Roasters, and Ted's Package Store.

Tickets are \$10 per participant and can be purchased at the Charlton Public Library circulation desk or at the door the evening of the event. All proceeds benefit the Charlton Public Library.

For more information, please email charltonfriends@gmail.com or call 774-230-1410.

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